

-----Original Message-----

From: Ray Hewitt [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 May 2023 09:04

To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>

Subject: Land to the North of the junction with Shelleys Lane, Main Road, Knockholt, Kent

Licensing Application Ref. 23/01234/LAPRE

I write with concern regarding the proposed Festival to be held in August. It is sad that the organisers did not initially get in touch with the residents of Knockholt but good that we did eventually have a meeting with Michael Cutting and one of the organisers.

However, I am worried that traffic could be a great problem. Access to Knockholt is limited. The only Main Road way is to access from Rushmore Hill. All other roads are small lanes, in many instances with only passing places. The Main Road in the centre of the village already has parked cars at most times which would also make the passing through of traffic difficult. Unlike a previous Festival held by this organisation where access was easily obtained off the A.21 this is not the case. Knockholt is not off a main arterial road. On the day it would be essential that a considerable amount of cones would be needed in the immediate access area so as not to cause a bottleneck. At the current time we do not have sufficient detail from the organisers of how they are going to deal with the almost inevitable traffic problems. The access to the site is on a staggered cross road with obscured sight lines..

At weekends there is normally a considerable number of walkers, cyclists and horseriders and also the Main Road is used as a rat run which already generates a fair amount of traffic. Because of this there would be a high risk of traffic confusion/accidents and major congestion within the village. The Management Plan as it stands does not cover this aspect sufficiently.

Public transport is poor to the village with the last bus leaving to go to Orpington about 9pm and there is no bus service to Sevenoaks. The nearest railway station (Knockholt) is 4 miles away - hence anyone attending is more than likely to come by car.

At the moment we have been told that the visitor numbers will be 1500 (including stallholders and organisers) but at the moment this has only been told to us and not put in writing. It is essential that the numbers are restricted and this is agreed in writing.

In the event of fire (which could be a possibility given the very dry summer we had last year and the number of fires that happened) it could well be a logistical challenge for the fire brigade to gain access - presumably from the entrance at the bottom of Shelleys Lane.

I feel considerable thought and care should be given before permission is given to hold this event on that site.

Amanda Hewitt